

**Statement from Minister of Health Christine Elliott**

“Since day one, our Government has been working to fix our health care system and put patients first.

“In fact, just today, the Premier’s Council on Improving Health Care and Ending Hallway Medicine released its first report which highlights the need for health care transformation. This should not surprise anyone. Our health care system is on life support. It is a system that has been built for bureaucracy and not for patients.

“Since the NDP haven’t been in government in more than 24 years, they may not know how the legislative process works. Drafts are drafts. It’s not been finalized. But our government is continuing to consult and listen to the people who plan and work on the front-lines of our health care system – including our doctors, nurses, and other health care providers – as we build our long-term transformational strategy. We were elected to put the patient at the centre of a sustainable health care system built for the future. We are committed to that transformation.

“Andrea Horwath’s lack of understanding of the health care system has never been more apparent.

“Dating back to the 15 years of Liberal Governments led by McGuinty and Wynne, the NDP have been crying wolf about the privatization of the health care system. It wasn’t true then and it isn’t true now. This is a very tired NDP tactic.

“Our Government for the People strongly believes in our public health care system and is strongly committed to improving public health care for patients. This was a key plank in our election campaign, and a key reason the people of Ontario sent our government to Queen’s Park. That’s why we’re continuing our important work with our partners in health care as we develop our transformational health care strategy.

“Meanwhile, the hypocrisy from Andrea Horwath is a bit rich. Andrea Horwath and the NDP have long been calling for wide-spread transformation of the health care system – including abolishing the LHINs.

“It is a shame that Andrea Horwath has decided to play politics with the issue that we know is the most important to Ontario families – our public health care system.

“Our Government for the People is committed to building a health care system centered around the patient and redirecting money to front-line services – where it belongs – to improve patient experience, and provide better, connected care and capturing better value for our health dollars.

“Our Government will always put people and patients first. We will continue to listen to patients, families and health care providers, and we will create a health care system that works for the people of Ontario.”